

Grade: 7	Strand: Writing	Concept: Adding complexity and detail to written work
Description of Task:	Students add detail to sample paragraphs to produce more interesting and detailed paragraphs.	
Expectations:	<p>7e4 • use a variety of sentence types and sentence structures, and sentences of varying length;</p> <p>7e12 – use a variety of subordinate clauses correctly and appropriately for their purpose;</p> <p>7e13 – use modifiers, including prepositional phrases, correctly and with increasing effectiveness;</p> <p>7e14 – use a variety of sentence types (statements, exclamations, questions, commands) appropriately and effectively;</p> <p>7e17 – spell a wide range of commonly used words correctly;</p> <p>7e19 – use a variety of resources to spell difficult unfamiliar words;</p>	
Software Type:	Word Processing	
Computer Skills Prerequisite	<p>Students must be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and run a word processing program • Find and open the correct template file • Enter text using the keyboard • Save and print completed work 	
Student Instructions: (for teacher)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students discuss what “add detail” means when teachers write the comment on an assignment. Discuss why understanding this comment is important. 2. As a class, examine and compare the amount of detail in two sample paragraphs (selected by teacher in advance). 3. Refer to the “Stretching Ideas” handout for ways of making writing more detailed (in <i>Think Literacy: Cross-Curricular Approaches, Grades 7-12, Ontario Ministry of Education, 2003</i>, (p. 122)). 4. Ask students to read and complete the activities on the two template files that accompany this activity. In activity 1, students read a sample paragraph and record questions about missing details. In activity 2, students add details to a sample paragraph to add interest and complexity. 5. Provide students with a copy of the checklist that accompanies this activity. 6. Remind students to save and print their work. 	
Teacher Notes:	<p>This activity is based on the “Developing and Organizing Ideas: Adding Details” activity in the <u>Think Literacy: Cross-Curricular Approaches, Grades 7-12</u> document (pp. 119-122). Teachers may wish to begin this activity by reading aloud and modeling adding detail to a sample paragraph to help students to understand why it is important to add detail when writing. Two samples are provided in the resource document. You may reuse the templates provided by deleting the existing text and adding your own.</p> <p>Teachers may also choose to have students bring a first draft ready for revision to class to use to apply some of the ideas generated in this activity.</p> <p>Related offline activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can compare their revisions and discuss their choices for adding detail. • Students can use this activity to revise an earlier piece of work. • Students may construct and exchange new paragraphs to practice adding detail. 	
	Activity Template File: Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Student Instruction BLM: Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Assessment:	<p>Are students able to identify ways of stretching the ideas and adding detail to the sample paragraphs? (curriculum)</p> <p>Are they able to identify areas for improvement in their own work? (curriculum)</p> <p>Do their revisions utilize conventions correctly? (curriculum)</p> <p>Are their new sentences varied and complex? (curriculum)</p> <p>Are they using vocabulary appropriate to the topic and their grade level? (curriculum)</p> <p>Are they referring to the “Stretching Ideas” handout? (learning skills)</p>	